

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Woods S32614

Transcribed by Will Graves

f44SC

rev'd 8/21/17

[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.]

[p 3]

In order to draw a Pension allowed by the Act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832 – I here state my Services with my age and the time I entered the Service – I was born on the 13 Day of December 1758 – This I took from my Father's Bible and I have it in my own – I was born in South Carolina Williamsburg Township – In 1774 my Father moved to the back part of South Carolina – York District, where I lived until 1804, when I moved to Kentucky and lived there until 1816 when I moved to the State of Alabama where I now live – I was an Orphan – In my 18th year I entered into the Public Service as a Volunteer Horseman for four months under Captain William Gaston under General Andrew Williamson against the Cherokee Indians¹ we first marched to East Estoto – then to Calhatchie then to Kawee [sic, Keowee?] & Seneca, then we marched on to the Towns on the head of the Tennessee [River] – we had a hard battle at the Horse-Shoe mountain, then we marched to the Valley Town on Hiwassee & then back by Chota to Seneca which was an Indian Town in South Carolina and Williamson's head-quarters where I served four months as a private Foot-Soldier in building a Fort and guarding it under Captain Robert Lusk & the said General Williamson – I next served four months as a volunteer private Horseman in the Florida campaign in 1778² as well as I can remember under the said Lusk & Williamson – we marched through Georgia crossed the Altamaha [River] and St. Tillis [sic, Satilla] Rivers on to St. Mary's [River], where we were under General Wm Howe [sic, Robert Howe of North Carolina] of the Continental line. In 1779 I served four months under Major Ross [Francis Ross]³ as a Volunteer Horseman in Georgia, where we were under the command of General Ash [sic, John Ashe] and were defeated at Briar Creek [March 3, 1779]⁴ – and Ross was killed in a battle with the Creek Indians at Golphins Cow Pens-- In 1780 Charleston fell [Charleston South Carolina fell to the British on May 12, 1780], -- I fell in as a Volunteer under Captain Andrew Neille [sic, Andrew Neel] as a Horseman for four months who acted as a Col. under Sumpter [sic, Thomas Sumter] and was present when we defeated and killed a Captain Hook [sic, Christian Huck] of the British dragoons in Williamson's lane [July 12, 1780]⁵ – I was

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_cherokee_expedition_1776.html

² <http://www.ourgeorgiahistory.com/wars/Revolution/revolution11.html>

Third Florida expedition: Spring 1778 [Robert Howe]

³ Francis Ross (1744-1779) served as a captain under Col. Thomas Neel on the Cherokee Expedition in the summer of 1776. Moss, *Roster*, p. 831. In the spring of 1779, Ross was wounded in a skirmish with the Cherokees and died from his wounds on March 31, 1779. William A. Graham. *General Joseph Graham and His Papers on North Carolina Revolutionary History*, Raleigh: 1904.

⁴ <http://www.myrevolutionarywar.com/battles/790304-briar-creek/>

⁵ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_williamsons_plantation.html

at the battle of Rocky-Mount [July 30, 1780]⁶ and Hanging-Rock [August 6, 1780]⁷ and many skirmishes with the Tories – in 1781 Sumter raised a Brigade of State-Troops for 10 months – I entered the Service as a Sergeant Major under Colonel Henry Hampton of the Third Regiment, but did Adjutant's duty most of the time in Wade Hampton's Regiment which was the first Regiment and drew pay from the Commissioners who were General Sumter and Colonel Richardson as Adjutant for six months, but as I have no proof of having held that Office I am willing to take the pay of a private Horseman for the 10 months – In 1782 – I commanded a Company of Foot Militia four months in South Carolina under Major Hannah [William Hanna] and General Henderson [William Henderson] – I got my Commission from the Governor John Rutledge, but do not know what became of it – we were stationed on the North Edisto in South Carolina and were most of our time in collecting Tory wives & sending them to their Husbands in Charleston.

9 December 1833

S/ Thomas Woods

[p 6]

State of Alabama, Dallas County

On this 22nd day of October personally appeared before me Joshua Watson a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Thomas Woods, Sr, a resident of the County & State aforesaid, aged seventy-three years & ten months, 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, & served as herein stated, namely, under Captain William Gaston, commanded by General Andrew Williamson, against the Cherokee Indians, as a volunteer horseman, in 1776, for the term of four months, from South Carolina, York District, marched through the Cherokee nation, & fought in one general engagement at the Horse-shoe mountain, & in several skirmishes. Again in the same year under Captain Robert Lusk, & the aforesaid General Williamson, as a volunteer militia footmen to build a fort [ink blot, text missing] Seneca in the upper parts of South Carolina, a term of four months.

Again under the aforesaid Lusk & Williamson, as well as recollected [ink blot, text missing] in 1778, in the Florida Expedition, a term of four months, as a volunteer horsemen. Again under the command of Major Ross & General Ashe at the time of the battle of Briar Creek, in the State of Georgia, as well as recollected in 1779, a term of four months. Again after the capture of Charleston in South Carolina, in 1780, under the command of Captain Andrew Neel, & Colonel Thomas Sumter, as a volunteer horseman for a term of between four & five months, in which time I was at the defeat of Captain Huck of Tarleton's dragoons at Williamson's Lane, in York District S. C. & again at the battle of Rocky Mount, & again at the battle of the Hanging Rock, & at several skirmishes with the Tories in the State of S. C. After Colonel Sumter got wounded at the battle [of] Blackstock's, he ordered me to raise four men to guard him at Price's in North Carolina, & while he was there, I was sent by him to carry several dangerous expresses, for the term of four months. In 1781, General Sumter raised a Brigade of State Troops, for 10 months in the State of SC I joined this Brigade as a Sergeant Major, but did Adjutant duty in Colonel Wade Hampton's Regiment part in S. C. & part in Georgia under General Wayne during the service. In 1782, I commanded a company of foot militia under a commission from Governor Rutledge under Major Hannah & General Henderson, in South

⁶ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_rocky_mount.html

⁷ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_hanging_rock.html

Carolina on North Edisto.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present, & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ Thomas Woods, Senr.

S/ Joshua Watson, JP

[Thomas Alexander, a clergyman, and George Phillips gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 8 & 16]

1st Where and in what year were you born?

Ans: In the State of South Carolina, Township of Williamsburg, 13th of December 1758.

2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Ans: I have I took it from my father's Bible & have it in mine.

3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Ans: In South Carolina, York District. I remained in S. C. till 1804 – in Kentucky until 1816, & since in Alabama.

4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Ans: Always as a volunteer

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Ans: With General Howe in 1778 & with General Ashe in 1779, in 1780 with Col. Sumter & with Genl. Greene, Wayne, Sumter in 1781

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Ans: I do not recollect anything about a discharge. If I ever received any I have lost them

6th To an officer. Did you ever receive a Commission, & if so by whom was it signed & what has become of it?

Ans: I received a commission of Captain from the Governor of South Carolina, but it is now lost or destroyed.

7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

Ans: George Phillips, William Wilson & Hugh Kennedy & Jas. H. Armstrong.

S Thomas Woods, Senr.

Sworn to & subscribed the 22nd of October 1832 before me

S/ Joshua Watson, JP

[p 40]

State of Alabama, Dallas County

On this 23rd day of May, 1833 – Personally appeared before me, a Justice of the peace for the County aforesaid Thomas Woods, Senior, a resident of the County aforesaid aged Seventy-four 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: namely, under Captain William Gaston, commanded by General Andrew Williamson against the Cherokee Indians, as a volunteer horseman, in 1776 for the term of four

months from South Carolina, York District; marched through the Cherokee nation, and fought in one General engagement or battle, at the Horseshoe mountain, and in several skirmishes. Again in the same year under Captain Robert Lusk, and the aforesaid General Williamson as a volunteer militia footmen, to build & guard a fort on the River Seneca, in the upper parts of South Carolina, a term of four months.

Again under the command of the aforesaid Lusk & Williamson, in 1778, as well as recollected, in what was called the Florida expedition, marched through Georgia, & lay a considerable time on the River St. Mary's, the boundary line between Georgia & Florida a term of four months as a volunteer horsemen. While at St. Mary's, he believes a General Howe commanded, who as well as he recollects was said to be a Continental officer.

Again in 1779, if he recollects correctly, under the command of Major Ross & General Ashe, part of the time in the State of Georgia, a tour of four months – during this campaign was fought the disastrous battle of Briar Creek in Georgia. Again in 1780, under the command of Captain Andrew Neel, & Colonel Thomas Sumter, as a volunteer, horsemen, for a term of between four & five months, in South Carolina, in which time he was in an engagement with a party of British dragoons & Tories commanded by Captain Huck, who was killed, at Williamson's Lane in York district, South Carolina, & in the same summer, he was in the battle of Rocky Mountain & Hanging Rock, & in several skirmishes beside.

Again, in 1781, General Sumter of South Carolina raised a Brigade of State Troops, for 10 months he joined the Brigade as a Sergeant-Major, but did Adjutant's duty most of the time say six months in Colonel Wade Hampton's Regiment; part of the time in South Carolina with General Greene & Colonels Washington & Lee & part of the time in Georgia under General Wayne & Colonel White. Again in 1782, he commanded a company of foot militia, under a commission from Governor Rutledge, under Major Hannah & General Henderson in South Carolina on the North Edisto.

He hereby relinquishes every claim to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of the agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed the day & year aforesaid.

S/ James H. Armstrong, JP

S/ Thomas Woods, Senior

[Thomas Alexander, a clergyman, and George Phillips gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 26]

State of South Carolina, Anderson district

Personally came before William McMurry one of the Justices of the Quorum for the said District David Hamilton⁸ and Thomas Hamilton⁹ and being sworn in due form of law David Says on oath that he was well acquainted with Thomas Woods before and during the revolutionary war and knows that the said Thomas Woods commenced his Services in the Florida Expedition But the particular year he does not now Recollect and after said Woods returned from that Expedition he was employed as a Recruiting Officer to Enlist men under Colonel Wade Hampton to the Best of his Recollection for 10 months he also states on his oath that said Woods was with General Sumter when he defeated Captain Hook [Christian Huck] at Colonel Bratton's and remained in the service and this State until the close of the Revolutionary War. Thomas Hamilton says on his oath that he was also well acquainted with the above mentioned Thomas Woods before and in the time of the Revolutionary war and knows that he went into the Florida Expedition and after his return from there went into the service of this State under Colonel Wade

⁸ [David Hamilton S21804](#)

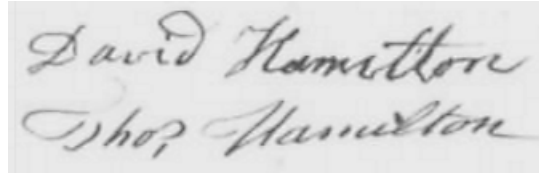
⁹ May be the same as [Thomas Hamilton S21267](#) who filed in Anderson District, SC

Hampton who was commanded by General Sumter and he knows that said Woods remained in the Service of the State of South Carolina until the Close of the war. Sworn to before made this 22nd day of February 1834.

S/ William McMurry, JP

S/ David Hamilton

S/ Thos. Hamilton



David Hamilton
Thos. Hamilton

[p 28]

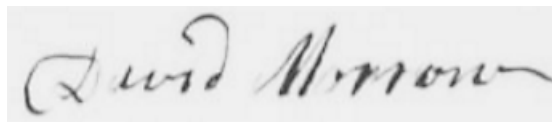
State of Alabama, Dallas County: May 21st 1834

Personally appeared before me James H. Armstrong an acting Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid David Morrow¹⁰ formerly of South Carolina but now of the State aforesaid and made oath that he was acquainted with Thomas Woods Senior in South Carolina but now of the State of Alabama and was with the said Woods in the year 1780 – when the British took Charleston he joined Colonel Sumter as a volunteer horseman and served as such between four and five months with Sumter and was at the Battle in willisoms lane [sic, Williamson's Lane] when hook [sic. Christian Huck] was defeated also at the Hanging Rock Battle and at the Battle of Rocamount [sic, Rocky Mount] and in 1781 – General Sumter raised a Brigade of State Troops for 10 months and he the said Thomas Woods Senior joined Henry Hampton's Regiment in said Brigade for 10 months as a Sergeant Major and he the said David Morrow served in said Brigade for 10 months as a private Horseman and that they were both at the taking of Orangeburg and Fort Motte and said Morrow doth believe that the said Woods was in the service as a volunteer Horseman until the End of the War.

Sworn to and subscribed the day and date above mentioned.

S/ James H. Armstrong, J. P.

S/ David Morrow



David Morrow

[pp 35-38: multi-page letter in Woods' handwriting [which is challenging, to say the least, addressed to the Hon. William R. King [Member of Congress from Alabama.] Here is my attempt to decipher it—use with great care.]

My first term was after the Cherokees a volunteer horseman	4 M
my next tour was Building a Fort at Seneca and guarding it	4 M
at Florida a horseman	4 M
at Briar Creek a horseman	4 M
After the fall of Charleston under Captain Andrew Neel and General Sumter	30 days, then
50 days, then 50 days, 130 days, which was 10 days over	4 M
guarding Sumter and riding express	4 M
Commanded a Company of 40 volunteers	4 M
then in Sumter's Brigade as a light dragoon Ten months, 4 of which I served as a Sergeant Major	
the other 6 as adjutant of Waids Hampton's [Wade Hampton's] command, found my horse,	
saddle, Bridle, wood, pistols [indecipherable word] and Cap with suitable Clothing all at my own	

10 [David Morrow S7253](#)

expense And For about 18 months service paid one Negro man and £180 in an indent for which I got one half. As I commenced my Military Career at the age of 18 I pursued no other calling during the war first under Captain William Gaston and General Andrew Williamson and next under Captain Robert Lusk and said Williamson next under said Lusk and Williamson and after we got to St. Mary's River we were under General William Howe [Robert Howe] of the Continental line next under Major Francis Ross and General Ashe at Briar Creek until after the fall of Charleston I served under Captain Andrew Neil and Thomas Sumter.

My next service was guarding Sumter and carrying expresses from him to General Greene and Governor John Rutledge on which I had to go near Camden where was a British Army and through a Tory Country altogether Greene then lay at Hickett's Creek [?] near Cheraw Hills then I carried an express to the Governor of North Carolina and one for the Governor of Virginia and stopped a Brigade of 31 wagons which Sumter had sent [to] New Bern for salt and Military Stores I met the wagons near Guilford Courthouse and turned them back to Virginia had I not turned them back when I did they would have been taken by Cornwallis as it was but 2 days after that him and Greene had the Battle of [indecipherable word or words]¹¹ where I turned them back and after I took my Expresses I met them again at Charlotte Courthouse in Virginia and took them from there to Henry Courthouse my last tour was when I had my company all volunteers stationed on the head of Stono [River] in South Carolina 4 months and Major William Hannah and General Henderson collecting Tory women and sending them with their families to their husbands in Charleston while I was in the state [indecipherable word] I with 200 of our [indecipherable word] were sent to General Wain [Anthony Wayne] at Savannah where we continued until our time of service was out which was 6th February 1782 we were then at the fork of the [indecipherable word] and Okmulgee [Ocmulgee Rivers] after the Cherokee Indians. All the services I performed with faithfulness as I was a friend to my Country in heart. I was determined not to [indecipherable word or words] to British government and was determined if the British had continued [?] I would have gone and joined some Indian Nation out of their Reach. I served from principal and as my first tour was 4 months while after the Cherokee Indians I always after engaged for and served 4 months but all my tours I served over that time but called it 4 months I went one that to Virginia in time of the war that is after 1776 my first tour and that took up about 5 months was all that I was out of the service going from one Army to another I undertook no business of any kind but was in some Camp or other and all this service was at my own expense as to my [indecipherable word or words] I got nothing from the public but my victuals and often very little of that and was paid off in paper Bills worth almost nothing.

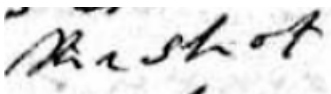
And now when Congress was so good as to allow some Remuneration for my services it appears that those who have the managing of that Business are determined to allow me nothing but a pretense of \$100 a year and had I known that I would have [several indecipherable words] I would not have made application. I have to confess that testimony was lacking and [several indecipherable words] [I did not attempt to transcribe the last of this 4 page letter as it appears not to detail any of the services of the veteran.]

S/ Thomas Wood Senr.

4th March 1834

For the Honorable William R. King

[p 13: On June 12, 1835 in Dallas County Alabama, Lorana Woods filed an affidavit in which

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she states she is the widow of Thomas Woods Senior, a revolutionary war pensioner; that she resides in the County of Dallas; and that her husband resided in said County at the time of his death. She signed her affidavit with her mark. p 14: in another affidavit of the same date she stated that her husband died June 22, 1834.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$100 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service for 2 years in the South Carolina militia cavalry.]