

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements](#)

Pension application of Thomas Douglass S3296

fn23NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

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[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Also, the handwriting of the original scribes often lends itself to varying interpretations. Users of this database are urged to view the original and to make their own decision as to how to decipher what the original scribe actually wrote. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. Folks are free to make non-commercial use this transcript in any manner they may see fit, but please extend the courtesy of acknowledging the transcriber— besides, if it turns out the transcript contains mistakes, the resulting embarrassment will fall on the transcriber.]

State of Tennessee, Davidson County Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions of said County, January term 1833

On this 8th day of February 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Justices of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions now sitting for the County of Davidson in the State of Tennessee, Thomas Douglass, aged seventy-four years the sixth day of next May, 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.

I was born on the 6th day of May 1759, in Granville County State of North Carolina, where I resided until my Father moved to Surry County in the same State, where I resided until the Revolutionary war. When about 15 years of age or thereabouts, I volunteered in Surry County North Carolina, in a Company of horse commanded by Captain Colbert attached to the Army then commanded by General Greene. The whole of the horse Soldiers was commanded by Colonel Robert Lanier. For some time after joining the Army I was employed in carrying expresses, & whilst carrying an express from Major Vincent on Dan River to Colonel Williams at Salisbury, I was taken prisoner by the Tories at the River Shallowford, previous a day or two to the battle that took place there – during the battle of Shallowford between the Whigs & Tories, I was rescued, the Whigs being victorious at that battle I saw Claiborne Gentrey, who was one of those who rescued me. After that Battle I joined a company of horse commanded by Major Lewis, attached to the horse under the command of Colonel Lanier, in Guilford County in said State. We remained at Guilford, and that County, several weeks, & during that time the battle of Guilford took place. General Greene was commander in chief in that battle – Colonel Williams, Colonel Lanier, Captain Colbert & several others commanded in that battle – after the battle of Guilford, we retreated to Wilmington same State, where we remained very short time, & then we marched to Hillsboro, under the same officers where we remained several weeks, & then I was discharged having served according to my discharge two years and three months – having left my discharge in North Carolina, about 30 years ago on my removal to my present residence in Davidson County, Tennessee, I can produce no documentary evidence.

I hereby relinquish every claim to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

S/ Thomas Douglass, X his mark

State of Tennessee, Davidson County: Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions for said County, January term 1833

I Claiborne Gentrey,¹ residing in Davidson County and State of Tennessee, Testify that I have been acquainted with Thomas Douglass ever since my youth, and I know that his statement in relation to be taken prisoner by the Tories is true, as I was in the battle of Shallowford and was one of those

¹ [Claiborn Gentrey S3391](#)

who rescued him. I saw him frequently during his service, and know that he was employed in carrying expresses – he was attached to the Army under the command of General Greene – other parts of his statement I do not recollect, but having known said Douglass so long & knowing him to be a man of veracity I have no hesitation in giving to them my unqualified belief.

S/ Claiborn Gentry, X his mark

State of Tennessee, Davidson County: Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County, October term 1833

On this 23rd day of October 1833 personally appeared in open court before the Justices of the court of pleas and Quarter sessions now sitting for the County of Davidson in the State of Tennessee Thomas Douglass who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following statement as an amendment to his former declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. --

During my service in the revolutionary [war] I was engaged two years in actual service and during said two years I was not employed in any civil pursuit. In addition I also served three months as an express rider-- making in all two years and three months – I served but one tour – that was, for two years and three months – whether that was the usual length of tour or not, I know not, but I do know that, that was the duration of my term of engagement – A call was made for volunteers by Captain Colbert and Colonel Lanier – twas after a call was made by them that I volunteered. Colonel Lanier who commanded the whole of the horse, was called and obeyed by the soldiers as Colonel – Colonel Lanier was subject to the orders of Colonel Martin Armstrong whose residence was in Surry County North Carolina.

I volunteered in the above mentioned body of horse, which was too small for a Regiment, & was divided into companies, all being commanded by Colonel Lanier and he, by Colonel Martin Martin[sic] Armstrong.

My Company in said body of horse was commanded by Captain Colbert. I do not recollect the names of the other captains, but know that Major Lewis and Major Vincent also commanded in said body of horse – I was subject immediately to the orders of Colonel Lanier and was during the whole term of my engagement, a private volunteer. It was near the close of the revolutionary war that I commenced service, after entering service I served till it's conclusion. In my former declaration, I mentioned that “for some time after joining the Army I was employed in carrying expresses.” Perhaps I used the word or my improperly, as I meant by that, a body of horse I have above spoken of. The body of horse above mentioned, was not connected or attached to any foot soldiers. It was used and intended entirely to act against the Tories – when there was no occasion to act against them we were at leisure – but still embodied. In my former declaration I was made to say “after that battle a company of horse commanded, I joined Major Lewis, attached to the horse under the command of Colonel Lanier” -- “in Guilford County same state” And this is a mistake of the writer not of myself – It was in Surry County I joined the company of horse commanded by Major Lewis – under the command of said Lewis and Lanier we marched from Surry County, to Guilford County, to Guilford Court house, where we remained till the battle at that place – It was whilst on this march to Guilford Court house, we Joined General Greene at the crossroads (in Surry County I believe) where Major Dobbins then lived – after joining General Greene, my body of horse was attached (I believe) to the seventh Regiment – (then we were commanded by Colonel Lanier, Major Lewis and Major Vincent – those officers Lanier, Colbert, Lewis & Vincent commanded my Regiment at whole time – I served in the horse all the time.

S/ Thomas Douglass, X his mark

State of Tennessee, Davidson County: November Term of the Circuit Court for said County 1833

On this the 24th day of December 1833, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable James C. Mitchell, Presiding Judge of the Circuit Court for the County of Davidson in the State of

Tennessee, Thomas Douglass, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration as an amendment to his former declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. -- when about ___ years of age I volunteered in Captain Colbert's Company of horse in Surry County North Carolina.

This company of Colbert's was at that time attached to a body of horse commanded by Colonel Lanier, Major Lewis and Major Vincent. This body, composing about 300 in number, acted as minute men during all the time we were in service, which was about two years. -- I served in that body of horse about 18 months before we joined General Greene spoken of in my former declaration. -- in this body of horse I served six months, after we joined the General Greene or about that length of time -- and we were engaged during that time in service as minute men. -- for the first three months after commencing service I served as an express rider -- for that I claim nothing -- Colonel Robert Lanier was subject to the order of Colonel Martin Armstrong who at that time resided in Surry County State of North Carolina -- Armstrong commanded a Regiment composed of said horse Company & some foot soldiers. I do not recollect the number of the Regiment -- but I know that Colonel Martin Armstrong was said Colonel, Robert Lanier and Joseph Williams, lieutenant Colonels of said Regiment -- It was whilst in service in said horse Company, previous to join General Greene that the Battle of Shallowford took place. This body of horse acted as minute men until we joined Greene and until that time we were not connected with any foot soldiers, but after serving about 18 months in this way we joined General Greene, and then we were formed into a Regiment commanded by the above mentioned officers. In my first declaration, I stated that I was about 15 years of age when I first volunteered -- as to that I have a very indistinct recollection -- since my claim has been returned, I am inclined to think I was mistaken in that particular and that I cannot tell how old I was or the time when I commenced service -- in my first statement I stated that, said body of horse was not attached to any foot soldiers in that, I would have acted better, if I had been more precise and stated, as I now do, that they were not attached to or connected with any foot soldiers until it joined General Greene about 18 months after I had joined said body of horse -- I have lost my discharge, or rather left it in North Carolina about 30 years ago, and it is more than probable that it has been years, years ago, lost or destroyed. If I had that I could prove my Service or if I could call up from the dead many of my fellow Soldiers, who are lying cold in their graves and consequently beyond my reach. If I say I could raise them up to testify in my behalf, I could prove not only all the particulars of my service but also that none ever shouldered a musket or fought in the service and defense of their Country with more zeal and patriotism -- or encountered more toils, dangers and privations, then this Humble applicant for a pension -- I throw my case upon the magnanimity of the Department.

S/ Thomas Douglass, X his mark

[Just to give the reader a glance at what the uncorrected version of some of these pension documents look like, see below: corrections have been inserted where they ease translation]

State of Tennessee, Davidson County August 20, 1833

Deposition [deposition] of Adam Binkley² Aged ninety four Being first Duly Sworn Deposeth and Sayeth Qu Mr. Binkley you will be State how longe you have bean a cquainted with Thomas Douglas and all you know a bout his being in the old revolutionary siryes [sic, service]

Answ I know of his Entering into servis in Surry County North Carolina for nine months servis as a volantear under Counol Martin Armstrong, May[sic, Major] Winston, Captain John Colburd [sic, Colbert] I know of his bearing at Saslsbury [Salisbury] and waxaw[sic, Waxhaw] brick [Creek?] and Purys Burg [Purysburg] head quarters while in servis you will state what the genral carractar [sic, general character] of Thomas Douglas Answ I would give full faith and credit to him on oath and be lieve[sic, believe] him and onest[sic, honest] man so far as I know said servises were servied in the

² [Adam Binkley S1890](#)

seventh regiment under the officers be four mentioned and further this Deponent sayeth not.
S/ Adam Binkley