

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Mills S33101

f19VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

6/12/13

[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 Lawrence County: SS

On this 16 day of April 1833 personally appeared in Open Court before the Circuit Court for Lawrence County now sitting Thomas Mills a resident of said County of Lawrence & State aforesaid, aged 71 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 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States in the militia in the month of April 1777 in a company commanded by Captain Samuel Mason, that he was a volunteer and resided near Fort Shepard [also spelled Fort Shepherd] in the State of Virginia situated six miles above the mouth of Wheeling Creek. That he was stationed at Fort Shepard until sometime in the month of June same year, when the company was ordered to Fort Wheeling at the mouth of Wheeling Creek. That he continued in service at Fort Wheeling until about the first of September following when the Fort was attacked by the Indians and it was then supposed that some British officers in company and that they were commanded by Simon Gerty [Simon Girty] – the Indians were supposed to be about 300 in number. That the Indians commenced the attack about sun rise and continued the attack until 10 o'clock at night when they were repelled. 18 whites [were] killed. That after the battle he continued at the Fort until the 1st of October when he was discharged but received no written discharge. That there were no regular officers and no other troops except the company to which he belonged.

That in the year 1779 & in the latter part of the month of July when residing at Red Stone Fort now Brownville Pennsylvania he again entered the service as a substitute for John Jackman in a company commanded by Nathan Ellis, first Lieutenant Bealor, 2nd Lieutenant not recollected. That the company rendezvoused at Pittsburgh, there the company was placed in the militia Regiment commanded by Colonel Hannagan there were two regiments of regulars one commanded by Colonel Broadhead and who was in command of the Expedition & the other commanded by Colonel Campbell as he now thinks but cannot state with certainty. That the whole force marched up the Allegheny River to the Indian towns then called Montsee towns. Just before the expedition arrived at the towns the advanced guard met a party of the Indians fired upon them and killed seven and one white man supposed to be a British officer. That the forces then marched up to the towns, burnt them & destroyed their corn & goods of every description. Then returned back to Pittsburgh was there discharged but received no written discharge which discharge took place sometime in the month of September. That he has no documentary evidence and knows of no person who can testify to his service. But James Ryan will testify as to having seen him at Fort Wheeling during the time of his service. That he was born in the County of Baltimore State of Maryland on the 5 of May 1761. Has a record of his age at home. That after his discharge at Pittsburgh he returned to near Fort Wheeling, resided

there 5 years that he then removed to Fayette County Kentucky resided there one year then to Mason County same state resided there 30 years – then to this state and has resided within the bounds of the County of Lawrence ever since. That Thomas Collins and Thomas Fyffe all persons residing in his present neighborhood & will testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his service as a soldier of the revolution.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

S/ Thomas Mills



[Thomas Collins, a clergyman, and Thomas Fyffe gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 14: On January 27, 1835 in Crawford County Illinois, Elizabeth Long gave a deposition in which she states that she is well acquainted with Thomas Mills of Lawrence County Illinois and knows of his serving at Fort Shepherd under Captain Samuel Mason from about the first of June 1777 until after the battle with the Indians on the first day of September 1777 and that thereafter he continued to serve under Captain Mason until about the close of the year 1777; she is also aware of his having served in August 1779 under Captain Nathan Ellis and she believes Colonel Broadhead. She signed her affidavit with her mark.]

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State of Illinois Lawrence County: Sct.

Be it remembered that on this the 15th day of March A.D. 1835 personally appeared before me Algernon S. Badollet one of the acting Justices of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid Thomas Mills aged about 74 years who being first duly sworn according to law makes the following declaration in addition to the declaration made by him on the 16th day of April 1833 before the Honorable William Wilson Judge of the Lawrence Circuit Court in the State of Illinois aforesaid, and returned from the War Department. That by reason of old age & consequent loss of memory he cannot swear positively as to the precise length of time he served nor to the times of his entering & discharge but according to the best of his recollection he served not less than six months under Captain Mason and not less than two months under Captain Ellis making in all not less than eight months, And for such Service he now claims his pension. The delay in making this declaration was occasioned in consequence of my trying to find some individual whereby to prove clearly my services, together with extreme illness for a good part of the time since the making of my first declaration, and lastly that I know of no other evidence whereby to establish my service other than that given in the accompanying documents.

S/ Thomas Mills

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of March 1835.

S/ A. S. Badollet, JP

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$20 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for service as a private for 6 months in the Virginia militia.]