

## Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Thomas Turnham S36831

f34VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/4/12

[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 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1786." Please call errors or omissions to my attention.]

### District of West Tennessee

Thomas Turnham a citizen of the County of Wilson in the said District came before me and claimed to be placed on the pension list of the United States in consequence of his services as a soldier during the revolutionary war and after being duly sworn deposed and saith that he enlisted into the Continental service in the fall of the year 1775 under the command of Captain William Tolliferro [William Taliaferro] in the 2nd Virginia Regiment commanded by the late Governor of Kentucky Colonel Charles Scott, for one-year and that he faithfully served out the time and was discharged, and that in a few months afterwards he enlisted again in the Continental service under the command of Captain Walter Wouls [Walter Vowles] he believes in the 2nd or 3rd Virginia Continental Regiment and remained but a short time in said Regiment and exchanged with a soldier in the horse service and was in that service under the command of Captain Churchwell Jones in the Regiment commanded by Colonel George Bell and served faithfully three years and state in the Army after his time was expired till the end of the War. That he is in his sixty ninth year very infirm and in very reduced circumstances and needs the aid of his government – That he has lost or mislaid his discharges. That he has never had any pension from the United States or any State government.

Sworn to & subscribed before me this 13th day of July 1818

S/ John McNairy, District Judge

S/ Thomas Turnham, X his mark

### Schedule

#### Circuit Court

State of Indiana Spencer County: SS

On this 15th day of March 1822 personally appeared in open court being a court of record for the said district, State and County, Thomas Turnham aged 73 years, resident in said State who being duly sworn according to law, doth, on his oath, declare that he served in the Revolutionary war as follows: he enlisted in 1775 into the company commanded by Captain William Toliver in the Regiment commanded by Colonel Spotswood [Alexander Spotswood] in the Virginia line Continental establishment he served under said enlistment one-year that he was discharged at Williamsburg in Virginia he was at the Battle of the Long Bridge in Virginia [December nine, 1775] and some other skirmishes – he next enlisted in the winter of 1776 at Fredericksburg in Virginia under Captain Walter Vowles in the Regiment of Infantry commanded by Colonel Stevens [Edward Stevens] in the Virginia line Continental establishment he was soon after transferred to Captain Churchwell Jones Company of the second Regiment light dragoons commanded by Colonel George Baylor the last enlistment was for the term of three years, he served for a longer time after the expiration of his enlistment and till after the taking of corn

Wallace [October 19, 1781], he was discharged at Culpepper County in Virginia on or about the 25th of October 1781 that he was in the battles of Brandywine [September 11, 1777], Germantown [October 4, 1777], Monmouth [June 28, 1778], Savannah [siege of Savannah, September 16 – October 18, 1779], Cowpens [January 17, 1781] and at the taking of Cornwallis. That his original application was made on the 18th of July 1818 and he obtained a Pension certificate No. 8957 and was inscribed on the Pension List of the West Tennessee agency.

And I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818 and that I have not since that time by gift, sale or in any manner whatever disposed of my property or any part thereof with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provision of an act of Congress entitled “an act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war” passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1818, and that I have not nor has any person in trust for me any property, or securities, contracts or debts due to me nor have I any income other than what is contained in the schedule hereto annexed and by me subscribed. This declarant would state that he has no property of any kind or sort to render a Schedule of. That he is by trade a farmer but from age unable to labor he has a wife aged 66 not able to contribute much to her own support, a son named David aged 17 years able to work but afflicted with the fits, and that he has no other evidence of his service in his power.

Sworn to and declared on the [obliterated by an ink blot] day of March 1822

S/Thomas Turnham, X his mark

S/ J. R. Goodlett, Presiding Judge

State of Kentucky Nelson County Sct.

I Austin Hubbard a Justice of the Peace in and for said County do hereby Certify that on this day Proctor Ballard<sup>1</sup> Esquire made oath before me that Thomas Turnham enlisted with him said Ballard in the Second Virginia Regiment under Lieutenant John Willis, William Talifarro [William Taliaferro] of Caroline County Captain Alexander Spotswood of the same County Major the late Governor of Kentucky Charles Scott, Lieutenant Colonel \_\_ Woodford [William Woodford] Colonel some time in September 1775 for one-year tour: had a review [?] in Fredericksburg by Charles Carter & William Fitzehaw [?, William Fitzhugh?]- Marched from thence to Williamsburg thence to the Great or long bridge near Norfolk – on the 4th or 5th of December had some scrimmaging with Negroes and Tories & a few British and on the 9th of the same month at the long bridge had an Engagement with Captain Fordice [Charles Fordyce] & defeated him – from thence marched to Norfolk and on Christmas Day began to cannonade the City and continued till the town was destroyed – marched thence back by the long bridge and around the bay to Suffolk and had some small fighting at Portsmouth in this rout [route] – marched thence to Williamsburg & from thence to Springfield and took up quarters two months more – marched thence to old James town – thence back to Williamsburg and there got discharged – That during all the year the said Thomas Turnham was a messmate of the said Ballard and was a faithful soldier. That he the said Ballard by a fall from a horse, age &c rendered unable to travel to the State of Tennessee. The above facts were sworn to before me on the 23rd day of June 1818.

S/ A. Hubbard JP NC

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<sup>1</sup> There is no indication that a veteran by this name filed for a federal pension. Consequently, the testimony he offers here may be the only record of his service in the revolution.