

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of John Thomas S3781

f20VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/29/11

[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 Tennessee Lincoln County: SS

On this 23rd day of October 1833 personally appeared in open Court before the Court of pleas & Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid in said State, now sitting John Thomas a Citizen of and resident in the County of Lincoln & State aforesaid aged 77 years [last overwritten, could be 78] 7 months & 14 days 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 – viz. – That he entered the service as a drafted Militia soldier in a company commanded by Captain Eppy White [Epaphroditus White], in the County of Halifax & State of Virginia, he believes in the month of July 1780 –, but as to the particular date he cannot be positive. He was drafted for the term of nine months as he believes. He was then marched from Halifax Courthouse to Petersburg in said State of Virginia, where they were ordered to remain & wait for further orders. Applicant states they remained here about two and a half or three months as well as he recollects – when they were all discharged and sent home. Applicant states that in the month of January or February 1781 he was again drafted for the term of seven months as he believes & recollects. This took place at Halifax Court House in the State of Virginia. He was immediately put under the command of Captain Joseph Morton who marched him from thence into North Carolina to Deep River some distance above the junction with Haw River they were thence marched up Deep River sometimes on one side & sometimes on the other, for several days endeavoring as he understood to form a junction with the Main Army under General Green [Nathanael Greene] – during this march we were frequently molested with Tarltons [Banastre Tarleton's] Light horse and were several times relieved by Colonel Washington's [William Washington's] light horse, who were frequently in our rear defending us from the attacks of the British light horse. There were several other companies who marched with our company from Virginia to join General Greene, the number of Captain Companies or the captains I cannot now distinctly recollect. I think six or seven, and I think Captain David Hunt commanded one of the Companies. He was from Pittsylvania County in Virginia so well as I can now recollect. We joined the Main Army under General Nathanael Greene several miles from Guilford Court House but the time when or place where we joined him I cannot state. After joining General Greene we remained with the main Army until the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781], which was fought in the month of March as he believes in the year 1781. On the morning of said Battle he was detailed as one to guard the wagons and was within about one mile of Guilford Courthouse at the commencement of the battle, where he remained until he received orders to retreat with the wagons to a place as well as he recollects called the iron works about six or seven miles distant. At this last place as applicant understood

General Greene's Army was directed to rendezvous in case of defeat. He states they did meet there and remained for some days. After which they learned that Lord Cornwallis had left the Battle Ground & was marching towards Wilmington as he was told General Greene with his Army marched after him and as applicant believes went as far as Deep River at which place as applicant believes his officer viz. Captain Morton & his company left the Main Army and returned home and about 12 miles from Halifax Courthouse they were all discharged & went home – He thinks he was discharged about the 20th of April or first of May 1781 –

About the last of July 1781 or first of August, Applicant was again drafted at Halifax Courthouse in Virginia for the term of nine months and was put under the command of Captain John Roberts and immediately marched to Swans Point in the State of Virginia, about six or seven miles from Williamsburg as well as he now recollects. He states they remained here for some time, and was then marched to York Town where he remained until after the surrender & capitulation of Cornwallis & his Army which took place in the month of October 1781. He aided in throwing up breast works and erecting the batteries, he was present and saw Cornwallis deliver his sword to General Washington, he saw Washington when he received it & returned it again to Cornwallis. He recollects distinctly the actions of both commanders on this interesting occasion & could state them if necessary. After the sword was returned Cornwallis, they both went to the Marquee [marquee] of General Washington, which was the last time ever Applicant saw Cornwallis. Applicant states he remained in service until about the first of December when he was discharged & returned him.

Applicant states he is confident he served more than 2 1/2 months under the first draft but owing to the length of time since the services were performed & loss of memory he cannot say how much longer, he therefore only claims for 2 1/2 months – under the second draft he served at least 2 1/2 months which he claims, under the third draft he served four months – making in all the term of nine months for which he claims a pension.

Applicant further states that he received from each of the Captains under whose command he served as above stated a discharge in writing at the time he was discharged for the term he served – under each respectively, which he gave to his father then living in Halifax County Virginia. Since which time, applicant has never seen or heard of them. His father has long since died & the family if any remains are scattered over different parts of the United States not known to applicant –

Applicant further states that he has no documentary evidence of his services, nor does he know of any person, whose testimony he can procure, who can testify to his services. Except the testimony of Colonel Robert Weekley [Robert Weakley], whose certificate will accompany this declaration.

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 in the United States.

Interrogatories propounded to Applicant and his answers thereto viz.

1. Where and in what year were you born –

Answer – I was born in Prince Edward County in the State of Virginia, on Vaughn's Creek, as I have been informed & believed, on the 7th day of March in the year 1756.

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

Answer. I have none. The only record ever made of it as I believe was in my father's family Bible, which I recollect to have seen it but I have never seen it since I left my father's protection which is nearly 47 years ago –

3rd Where were you living when called into Service? Where have you lived since the Revolutionary War? & Where do you now live? –

Answer at the different periods I entered the Service of the United States I was living in Halifax County State of Virginia. After the Revolutionary War, I moved into North Carolina, from thence I moved to South Carolina, from thence I moved to East Tennessee, from thence I moved to Franklin County Tennessee in the year 1818 & from that County I moved to the place where I now live in Lincoln County Tennessee in December 1820 where I have lived ever since & still reside.

4th How were you called into service? Were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a Substitute?

Answer. I was drafted each & every time.

5th State the names of some of the Regular officers who were with the troops where you served such Continental & militia regiments as you can recollect, & the General circumstances of your Service –

Answer. I knew General Green & General Washington who were at Guilford Courthouse I knew General Washington who commanded at York Town. I no doubt knew a great many others but cannot now recollect them. I do not recollect the number or names of any Continental or Militia or Regiments if they were ever known. I have already stated the General Circumstances of my Service as well as my memory at this distant period of time will enable me to do.

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

Answer. I did received three discharges in writing one given by Captain Eppy White, one given by Captain Joseph Morton, and the other given by Captain John Roberts. I gave all three of them to my father when I returned from the Service. He put them away among his papers as I suppose. What has since become of them I know not. I have never seen or heard of them since. Last father died about 15 or 20 years ago. The family has become dispersed over different parts of the United States. And I suppose the discharges lost or destroyed with other old papers of that time.

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

A. Nearly all my neighbors know me & my character for as to veracity. I would mentioned John King, Aaron Styles, Martin Burk, William McClure, Drury McConnally, Colonel James Smith, Reverend Benjamin Walker and the Reverend John Copeland.

S/ John Thomas

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Thomas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "S/ John Thomas".

Sworn to in open Court 22nd of October 1833

S/ F. L. Kincannon, Clerk

[John Copeland, a clergyman, and William McClure, Drury McConnally gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

State of Tennessee Davidson County: I Robert Weakley¹ of said County and State do certify that I was on the Campaign against the British Army in the early part of the year 1781 in the State of North Carolina, the American Army commanded by General Nathanael Greene, was in the Battle at Alamance, on the 6th day of March 1781 & in the Battle of Guilford, on the 15th day of said month & year, and that a man (or youth) by the name of John Thomas from the State of Virginia a citizen of either Charlotte or Halifax County, was on said Campaign as a soldier, which said John Thomas is now a Citizen of Lincoln County, Tennessee, as he is informed and believes, Thomas was in the same Company with myself. Captain William Morton of Charlotte County commanded said Company.

Given under my hand at Nashville June 5th, 1834

S/ R. Weakley

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Weakley". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

[Facts in file: Veteran died May 29, 1839 leaving a widow, whose name is not stated, and there is no further family data in this file.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, for 9 months service as a private in the Virginia militia.]

¹ I could find no application filed for a federal pension by a veteran of this name.