

Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of William Thomas S3782

f38VA

Transcribed by Will Graves

12/1/11

[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 Weakley County: SS

On this 10th day of October 1832 personally appeared before the Court of Pleas and Quarter sessions of the County of Weakley aforesaid, William Thomas a resident of Dresden, Weakley County and State of Tennessee, aged 78 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 provision made by the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832. That he enlisted in the Army of the United States in or about the month of February 1777 with Captain Ambrose Dudley and served as a Corporal in the 1st and 2nd Regiment of the Virginia line under the following named officers in General Muhlenberg's Brigade Colonel Morgan a part of the time – Reuben Whitlock acted as adjutant, Colonel Bartlett Collins acted as our Quarter Master. That he left the service in the month of March 1778 as well as he now recollects, the precise days of enlistment, or leaving the service he does not now recollect, he served about thirteen months – he further states that he enlisted for the whole length of time that the Virginia state troops did; that he was taken sick while in the service and that before he left it he hired a substitute to fill out the time of his enlistment at the price of \$500, his discharge was in the possession of his father but has been lost, he has no documentary evidence by which he can in anywise establish his claim, or that will enable him to say with certainty as to the day that he enlisted, or that his substitute was accepted in his place. That at the time of his enlistment he lived in the County of Orange & State of Virginia. That he marched under the command of Captain Ambrose Dudley to Fredericksburg and from thence to Williamsburg where he with other troops remained until sometime in March '78. Some short time after the arrival of the Troops at Williamsburg Captain Dudley & his Ensign Thomas Bush left the Army, who took the command in Captain Dudley's place he does not now recollect. Sometime after his return home he was called on by Colonel Thomas Barbour, by order of General Lafayette, to take command of a company and take charge of the Military Stores at Brocks Bridge, in which station he continued until the capitulation at Yorktown, after which he was ordered to convey the military stores to Charlottesville and delivered them up to Major Prior before he was discharged. He was detained in this service about sixty days making in all about 15 months.

Question 1st by the court Where and in what year were you born. Ans. In the County of Orange and State of Virginia. I have no register of my age but from the best information I have received I was born in the month of February 1754.

2nd Where were you living when called into service, where have you lived since the revolutionary war and where do you now live.

Answer I was living in the County of Orange when I entered the service of my country. From Orange County Virginia I removed to Fayette County Kentucky thence to Henry County

Kentucky, thence to Weakley County Tennessee where I now reside in March 1831.

3rd How were you called into service were you drafted, did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if a substitute for whom.

Answer. I enlisted under Captain Dudley as stated in my declaration served about 13 months was taken sick and hired a substitute to fill out the time of my enlistment and I then returned home after which, under a call made by General Lafayette through Colonel Barber of Orange County I volunteered, took command of a company and was stationed at Brocks Bridge to protect the Military Stores at that place.

4th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you served.

Answer. I can recollect no more than I have already stated in my declaration as to their names and rank. While stationed at Brocks Bridge my orders from General Lafayette was to give him daily information as to the movements of the enemy so far as I could learn and other orders from him which caused me to press horses, wagons, arms &c

State the names of some of the persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify to your character for veracity and their belief of your services as a soldier of the revolution. Answer. I know of no living person at this time in this state by whom I can prove my actual services there were in Kentucky living in Henry County two or three but I am informed that they are dead and died very lately. They were Austin Woodfolk, Joseph Thomas and John Thomas. My present neighbors that will testify to my veracity are amongst others Colonel Pulaski B Ball, A. G. Bondurant, George Stovall, Benjamin Bondurant and my others and I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of any agency in any state.

Sworn to and subscribed in open Court this 10th day of October 1832

S/ Wm H. Johnson, Clerk

S/ Wm Thomas

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

[Albert G Bondurant, Benjamin Bondurant, George Stovall and Pulaski B Bell gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Note: For some unknown reason, the veteran gave an almost identical application dated January 2, 1833. One change in the document is that in his second application the veteran said that he had written some months ago to an old messmate James Stevens but had ascertained that he was being. In this document he states that he was born in February 1756 and he knows that his birth was recorded in his father's family Bible but that he does not know when that Bible is. In answer to the question regarding the nature of his service, he stated "I enlisted or volunteered, and took the bounty, and with the bounty I received I enlisted to others, John Malory & Henry Childs, and we served in the same company together." In answer to the question regarding the officers under whom he served, he answered "General Muhlenberg, General Green, Captain Lewis of Augusta County, Morgan active part of the time and I think that he gave me my discharge – Reuben Whitlock acted as adjutant and Colonel Bartlett Collins as Quarter Master. There were but two regiments stationed at Williamsburg while I remained in the service, that I can recollect and they were not quite full, after the recovery of my health as stated in my declaration, I exerted myself in recruiting raising small companies &c for the purpose of thwarting & discovering the movements of the enemy until called on as before stated to take charge of the military stores at

Brock's Bridge." Also, in this declaration, the veteran was asked if he received a commission and if so by whom was it signed and what has become of it. He answered "When I was directed to take charge of the Military Stores at Brock's Bridge I received a lieutenants commission, through Colonel Barbour, and the County Court of Orange. It is to the best of my knowledge & belief amongst some of my papers on the Mississippi River which it has been out of my power to get home since my removal to this state." Benjamin Barham, a clergyman, Albert G Bondurant, Benjamin Bondurant & Pulaski B. Bell gave a supporting affidavit for this declaration.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$30 per annum commencing March fourth, 1831, for 15 months service as a private in the Virginia service.]